



Date: October 8, 2004
To: Gerald R. Miller, City Manager
From: Carl Kemp, Manager of Public/Governmental Affairs
For: Mayor and Members of the City Council
Subject: City Report: Weekly Update For Week Ending October 8, 2004

The following weekly update highlighting various activities for the week ending October 8, 2004 is provided for your information. I hope you will find this information useful. Please feel free to contact my staff should you have any questions.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

Health and Human Services: West Nile Virus Update

One new case of West Nile Virus was diagnosed among Long Beach residents this week. Fourteen human cases have been diagnosed in Long Beach in 2004.

Health and Human Services: Flu Vaccine Update

Staff has been working with federal, state and local authorities to address a national shortage of flu vaccine, which was created when an English vaccine manufacturer had their license rescinded. DHHS has been forced to cancel the senior flu vaccine clinics regularly scheduled for October. Further details are forthcoming regarding the local availability of vaccine to high-risk groups. Interested parties may call the DHHS Shot Info Line at (562) 570-SHOT for additional information.

City Manager

Facts At A Glance, an online information source with the phone numbers of elected officials, enjoyable Long Beach attractions, and important City services such as recycling and immunizations, as well as a list of major shopping areas and fun facts about Long Beach, is available at www.longbeach.gov.

Representatives from Health and Human Services, Fire, Police, Disaster Management and the City Manager's Office attend the Urban Area Security Initiative's Western Regional Conference in San Diego on October 4-5. The Conference provided grants management and best practices information to urban areas throughout the region.

MAJOR WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS (continued)

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

On October 4, the Commission on Youth and Children participated in a panel discussion, "Voices of the Future: Youth Leaders in Community," for the Leadership Long Beach Class of 2005. The event was held at the Miller Family Health Education Center. Commissioners Rebecca Turrentine, Co-Chair; Pierre Batton, Co-Chair (Youth); Lauren Perry (Youth); and staff gave a brief history of the Commission on Youth and Children and its connection with the District Level Youth Councils. There was an emphasis on the unique effort of nine youth and ten adults working together on issues relating to the well being of Long Beach youth and children.

Public Works Department - Environmental Services Bureau

Eleven additional LNG refuse trucks will be delivered next week. This delivery will complete the changeover of the entire automated refuse collection fleet from diesel to clean burning liquefied natural gas. The City now operates 26 automated refuse trucks and 20 street sweeping vehicles on liquefied natural gas, a cleaner burning fuel.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS

Marathon

The annual Long Beach International City Bank Marathon is **Sunday, October 10**. For more information visit www.longbeach.gov.

Fire

The Long Beach Search & Rescue Unit will hold its annual Recruitment Night on **Tuesday, October 12** at 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Department Training Center, 2247 Argonne Avenue. This specialized group is open to young people in the Long Beach area who wish to serve the public during emergency situations and non-emergency public events. Search & Rescue provides exposure to careers in the fire suppression, law enforcement, and emergency medical services fields, emphasizing leadership and responsibility. For additional information, please call 570-9450 or visit www.longbeach.gov.

Long Beach Fire Department Community Services Division will begin its next six-week C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) class on October 14 at the Long Beach Fire Department Training Center. Anybody interested in participating can call 570-LBFD for further information.

Library Services

The African American Heritage Society of Long Beach will hold its annual program at the Burnett School Cafetorium, 565 East Hill Street, on Saturday, October 9 at 1:30 p.m. The guest speaker Peter Taylor, the Managing Director of Lehman Brothers Los Angeles and a relative of the late Dr. Ralph Bunche, will present *In the Cause of Peace: The Life of Dr. Ralph Bunche*. The program is free and is cosponsored by the Burnett Neighborhood Library.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROJECTS (continued)

Library Services

The El Dorado Neighborhood Library will celebrate *Teen Read Week* with a Teen Monster Mash Program on **Tuesday, October 12** from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. The El Dorado Neighborhood Library is located at 2900 Studebaker Road.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

Participants in the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Breast Cancer Walk will spend the night in El Dorado East Regional Park on Saturday, **October 9**. Up to 2,000 walkers will begin the walk in Costa Mesa, spend the night in the park and complete the walk in Santa Monica the next day. This is the second year that the City of Long Beach and El Dorado East Regional Park have been part of the event route. This year's walk is one of ten being held nationwide. Staff has begun preparing the park for the event.

The Southland Senior Olympics Archery Competition will be held on **October 16 and 17** at the Archery Range in El Dorado East Regional Park. The City of Anaheim and the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine are co-sponsoring the event.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fire

A difficult, multiple alarm fire at the Port on September 30 was finally extinguished due to the diligent efforts of more than 50 Long Beach Firefighters and a small mutual aid response from the Los Angeles City Fire Department.

The Fire Department responded to a total of 1,173 emergency calls for service: 115 calls for fires of which 20 involved structures. It also responded to 757 emergency medical calls; 520 required paramedics.

Police

Career Criminal Apprehension Team Detectives located and arrested a suspect wanted for numerous acts of child molestation. The suspect was arrested in North Long Beach and is being held on \$2 million bail. Detectives also arrested the suspect wanted in connection with a homicide that occurred on August 8 in the 2100 block of Adriatic Avenue.

Personnel from the Long Beach Police Gang Enforcement Section, Robbery Detail, Violent Crimes Detail, SWAT Team, Search and Rescue; the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Probation Department and Department of Children and Family Services; and the California Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms participated in a large-scale high-risk search warrant operation targeting gang members wanted in connection with five recent shootings. Five search warrants were served in Compton and one in Long Beach. The operation resulted in four felony arrests and the seizure of significant evidence.

PUBLIC SAFETY (continued)

Police

A Reserve Police Academy of 10 recruits graduated after completing 571 hours of training. These recruits studied patrol procedures, firearms training, weaponless defense, criminal law, vehicle operations, and general law enforcement tactics and training.

Health and Human Services

Representatives from the Health and Police Departments participated in a Strategic National Stockpile training and exercise with Los Angeles County Department of Health Services, and other regional health jurisdictions.

On October 7, staff participated in the Department's fifth Incident Command Training for public health. To date, over 150 staff members have attended the training provided by the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters.

NEIGHBORHOODS

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Maintenance Operations Bureau

Broken and vandalized benches and bleachers have been repaired at DeForest, Ramona, Cherry, and Admiral Kidd Parks.

DeForest Nature Trail clean up is in progress and will continue for another two weeks.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Planning and Development Bureau

At MacArthur and Whaley Parks, accessibility improvement work is continuing. Demolition work on playgrounds at both parks is complete and enhancements are ready to begin. The community center restrooms at MacArthur Park are 90 percent complete, with only tile replacement work remaining. All the major plumbing work has been completed at the Whaley Park community center restrooms, leaving the installation of fixtures and tile replacement to be done.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Community Recreation Services Bureau

Rancho Los Cerritos offered its first 4th grade school tours of the new school year on October 7. Tours will continue on Thursdays only in October, and expand to Wednesdays in November. The program, "Adobe Days Revisited," supplements studies of California history with a hands-on living history experience at the Rancho. The popular program was developed initially with assistance from the Long Beach Unified School District.

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

The Redevelopment Bureau, in partnership with the Traffic & Transportation Bureau, hosted a North Long Beach, Dairy Neighborhood Traffic Enhancement Project community meeting with 31 residents attending. The purpose was to enhance traffic safety and circulation in the Dairy Neighborhood. A subsequent traffic study will evaluate the potential of one-way street conversions, the feasibility of increasing on street parking, and other possible improvements.

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SPECIAL EVENTS

Fire, Community Services Division

Staff joined the Long Beach Firefighter's Museum to hold a static display at the Edwards Cinemas on Carson Street on Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the opening weekend of the new motion picture, "Ladder 49". There was much interest in firefighting and the Long Beach Fire Department.

Parks, Recreation and Marine, Special Events and Filming Bureau

The Walk For the Animals, with an estimated attendance of 400, was held on October 2 at Heartwell Park.

Original Productions, with a cast and crew of 50, began filming "Monster House" on October 1 at 730 Atlantic.

Granite Productions, with a cast and crew of 110, filmed "Clubhouse" on October 5 at Blair Field.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

Public Works, Fleet Service Bureau

October 10, the day of the Long Beach Marathon, is one of Fleet Service's busiest days. Starting at 1:00 a.m., all available Towing staff and auxiliary contractors will be out in force to clear illegally parked vehicles from the twenty-six miles of streets on the racecourse. The staff is proud to have assisted in ensuring the success of this event and continues to strive to provide to best "on time service" to all the employees and citizens of Long Beach

Community Development, Redevelopment Bureau

In a public hearing held on September 14, the City Council approved the Disposition and Development Agreement between H. Roberts Construction and the Redevelopment Agency for the development of 2115 West 16th Street. The property is a 3,125 square-foot site located in the West Long Beach Industrial Redevelopment Project Area. The property will be used to provide auxiliary services to an existing general engineering and building contractor business.

Long Beach Energy, Gas Services Bureau

The Gas Services Bureau completed a total of 2,707 service calls during the week of September 26 through October 2, 2004. This total included 888 Gas and Water Utility Turn-On orders, and 894 Turn-Off orders. There were 709 Customer Service Orders for services that included lighting pilots, adjusting and inspecting appliances, completing fumigation orders, and verifying read orders. A total of 216-meter maintenance and billing-related orders were completed. Eighty-two customer emergency orders were completed during this period.

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Public Works and Police

The Long Beach Police and the Public Works Towing and Street Sweeping Divisions continue to keep Long Beach streets safe and clean. By using tools such as D.U.I. and Vice "Check Points," enforcing vehicle and parking codes, and consistently removing and recycling abandoned vehicles, the Towing/Lien Sales Division is promoting a proactive approach to control, parking and traffic congestion in Long Beach.

Public Works

Towing volume is at a record high and the Lien Sales Section is processing, selling, and recycling vehicles. Old city vehicles, equipment, and unclaimed bicycles are currently being sold at the weekly auction held at 3111 E. Willow Street.

GRM:CK:kp
Weeklyupdate 10/8/2004.doc

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